

#13
30 April 1971

264

SPECIAL INFORMATION REPORTSpring Demonstrations at Washington, D.C. from 1-5 May 1971

As the time nears for the most serious potential disruption of the city by antiwar protesters, extensive preparations are being made by all involved police jurisdictions. It remains the intention of antiwar protesters led by Rennie Davis, John Froines, David Dellinger and many other well-known activists to block a number of key bridges and highways in the city and to disrupt the operations of several key Government buildings.

Among the identified "action targets" that have been specified by the Mayday Collective which appears to have usurped the major leadership role from the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, there are several that are generally regarded as key targets that bear the brunt of possible major demonstrations on Monday morning, 3 May. At this reporting the No. 1 target appears to be both inbound and outbound channels of the 14th Street Bridge. Second priority targets are believed to be Memorial Bridge, Roosevelt Bridge and Key Bridge. Targets of lesser importance to orderly traffic patterns of the city but areas that are believed to be highly vulnerable are Dupont Circle and Washington Circle. A lesser target but one that has been identified as a highly potential one is Chain Bridge.

The population of Peace City has grown but slightly during the last week in April, and estimates presently vary between 1000 and 2000 persons. The conduct of the camp to date has served as a counter-productive manifestation that should hurt the efforts of organizers to amass a large turnout for scheduled activities on 3 May. Presently a rock festival is scheduled for Saturday; and other festivities, some of a quasi-religious nature, are intended to hold a mass of people in the center of the city on Sunday. A number of rock groups and folk performers are scheduled for Saturday including Arlo Guthrie, Phil Ochs, Barbara Dane, the Jefferson Airplane, the Company of Jesus Christ Super Star (which is performing this weekend at American University) and popular black soul singer James Brown. Among the

scheduled speakers for Sunday are Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Caesar Chavez of the Farm Workers, George Wiley of the National Welfare Rights Organization, Benjamin Spock, Rennie Davis and Father Groppi. Some of the proposed entertainers for Sunday's festivities are Aretha Franklin (who has volunteered to make bail for Angela Davis if bail is ever set), Buffy St. Marie, the Detroit Wheels and others. It is believed that the weekend festivities will draw a large number of local youth more interested in free fun and music than pacifism or political ideology. It is not believed that the demonstration leadership will be able to hold this group of young people for participation in activities scheduled for Monday morning.

Police planning and the coordination among various police jurisdictions are extensive and are well-considered and complete. Beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon, 2 May, police surveillance will begin at all area bridges including Cabin John and Woodrow Wilson which link Maryland to Virginia on the Beltway. At 5 a.m. on 3 May Washington police and Arlington police commence with 12-hour shifts for all personnel. All leaves have been canceled. The police manpower complement at the various key targets is as follows: 14th Street Bridge complex, D.C. side 300 uniformed police (u.p.), Virginia side 250 u.p. from Virginia State Police, Fairfax County and Arlington; Memorial Bridge, D.C. side 200 u.p., Virginia side 100 u.p.; Roosevelt Bridge, D.C. side 200 u.p., Virginia side 100 u.p.; Key Bridge, D.C. side 200 u.p., Virginia side 100 u.p.; Chain Bridge, D.C. side 100 u.p., Virginia side 50 u.p.; and in the Mixing Bowl area west of the Pentagon approximately 100 u.p. The Cabin John Bridge and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge will be covered by local police jurisdictions also but to a lesser degree unless it becomes apparent that police reinforcements are needed.

Virginia authorities have established three observation points overlooking key bridge approaches. They will have men stationed on the fifth floor of the Marriott Hotel overlooking the Rosslyn and Key Bridge area. A second observation point is in the Arlington Towers complex overlooking the Roosevelt Bridge approaches, and the third observation point is at the IDA Building overlooking the Pentagon and the 14th Street Bridge approaches.

During the entire disruption period, two Arlington police cruisers staffed with two men will be patrolling the Agency's buildings in the Rosslyn area. The Washington, D.C. Harbor Police boat will be on duty in full complement in the Potomac River channel between 14th and

Key Bridges early on the morning of 3 May. The Washington, D. C. fire boat with a full complement will also be patrolling in the channel with the facility of hoisting fire-fighting gear to the bridge surfaces in the event that they are needed. Highway clearing and wrecking equipment will be stationed on the bridges by Washington authorities, and Virginia will have approximately 40 pieces of heavy highway equipment located in key target areas. Virginia authorities are also providing 20 busses in the event mass detention is required.

At 2 p. m. on 2 May the D. C. National Guard will be activated and remain on duty through Friday, 7 May. These troops will be used as they were during the 24 April demonstration to assist police in patrolling outlying areas of the city. They will additionally provide security for police buildings and police equipment. The Third Infantry at Ft. Meyer has been designated to maintain security at the White House and at the homes and offices of key Government officials. The Army has reportedly also activated troops (identity unknown) to protect the Pentagon.

Local police jurisdictions are presently geared for three days of potential disruption, 3-5 May. Authorities do not believe that activities scheduled for Saturday and Sunday will cause serious disruption. The requirements for the days following 5 May will be determined, and a police staffing will be according to requirements.

Allegedly, the hard-core body of the demonstration intends to depart the city in time for a demonstration at New Haven on 7 May (in connection with the Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins Black Panther murder trial). As for the number of persons that will be on hand and demonstrating in the city, beginning on the morning of 3 May, estimates vary widely. There are several unknown factors which could significantly affect the size of the turnout. Demonstration leaders hope for 70,000. Realistic estimates vary between 6,000 and 30,000. The most uncertain variable at this time is the question of whether or not demonstration planners will be able to hold large numbers of young people in the area who come in for a weekend of fun and frolic. A considered estimate is that, barring some presently unforeseen circumstance, the bulk of young people will depart before the action starts. Most probably those present and active in the city on the morning of 3 May will be only the hard-core radicals, and it is believed that their showing will disappoint the demonstration leadership. Those active in attacking the designated targets on 3 May could number as few as several thousand and will probably not exceed 10-15,000.

As for planned acts of terrorism during the demonstration period, it does not appear to be in the cards. Although those protesters in the city during this period represent a varied and elusive consensus ideology, leaders such as Rennie Davis and David Dellinger and others are experienced enough to realize that a bombing in the early stages would be highly counterproductive. The possibility that a small group of fanatics will be present in the city during the period with the full capability of committing a planned act of terrorism cannot and should not be lightly regarded and dismissed. It is not believed, however, that the major forces present in the city personified by would-be leaders of the antiwar and anti-establishment movement would support or condone a terrorist act during this period.

Although bombings have increased throughout the country (principally the West Coast) in recent weeks, it is not believed that they are seriously scheduled by major involved organizations during the forthcoming period. If such a terroristic event is planned, the most probably date, based solely on ideologies involved and in the interest of an effective demonstration in the city, would most likely occur late on 5 May or in the early hours of 6 May.

Although there have been several vague references to CIA as a target for disruptive activities, it has not been a prominent entry in the literature. After early morning disruption next week the identified targets are the Pentagon on Monday, the Justice Department on Tuesday and the Capitol Building on Wednesday (the last day of planned disruption). It is not believed at this time that Headquarters will be subjected to direct protest demonstrations during the coming period. However, in the event of presently unforeseen moves against the Agency, appropriate forces and equipment will be stationed by Fairfax County authorities in and around the Langley compound.